

TO THE PUBLIC

A 10 V H

MRS. L. C. PEXNELL

Was compared in the

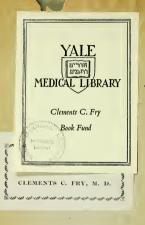
# ANSANE HOSPITAL

AND THE

## TORTLAND POORDOUSE.

Common of on Proceeds and the the Memorial of proceeds to the remainder sufficient. Admin. MISS. E. C. 191 NIFT L.

nu le







#### INTRODUCTION

TO THE

## "MEMORIAL SCRAP BOOK."

In 1880 the newspapers were outspoken as follows. The Portland Transcript of April 24, says —

In reference to the commitment of Mrs. L. C. Pennell, the lady who has been agitating the subject of sanitary reform, to the Insane Hospital the Gardiner Home Journal has the following: 'It seems to us that this is a great injustice. We probably have been 'bored' about as much as any ore by her, but we do not believe her any more insane than the average of people, especially those who think they have a mission. She is gentle and pleasant to every one, and thinks she is doing good; at any rate she is trying to, and though this is to most people an evidence of insanity, it seems to us that she should not be confined as a luntair.

The Waterville Mull also says, "Allow us to remark that if all the people who have been about the country selling a book or some other article, 'and boring the people,' were committed to the Insane Hospital, they would have to enlarge its capacity a hundred fold. Seriously though, without further explanation that treatment of Mrs. Pennell seems rather rough. How much she really knows of sanitary science we have no means of knowing, but her opinions on the subject, so far as she gave utterance to them here were in accord with the teachings of the best authorities. If mad there was method in her madness, and her manner was quiet, gentle and ladylike. We saw no evidence that she was a dangerous or troublesome person to be abroad, while she asserts that the abridgment of her liberty will work very serious injury to her health. In a note to us she complains of the injustice done her and demands an investigation of her case."

These remarks are in accordance with our own views of this remarkable case. Mrs. Pennell's teachings on the subject of sanitary reform as she has presented them to us are certainly sound, and greatly need to be carried into practice. It is a striking commentary on the prevailing ignorance and apathy in regard to sanitary matters, that in a city whose sewerage is notoriously defective, and whose children the present season have been dving by the score of scarlet fever, a woman should be declared insane for preaching sanitary reform. This would seem to be a case in which the victim might well retort in the words of another that all the world was crazy and she the only sane person in it. But seriously, even if Mrs. Pennell's hobby amounted to a monomania with her, the Insane Hospital with all its sights and smells is the very last place in which she might be cured. A commitment to that institution of an intelligent person like Mrs. Pennell is certainly enough to drive her to insanity. It is certainly due to the public that it should be made known by what authority and on what evidence of insanity Mrs. Pennell was sent to a lunatic asylum."

One of the trustees of the Insane Hospital wrote to the Gardiner Journal, "It is a hard case but we do not see what can be done. She has one unmarried daughter in Massachusetts who has maintained her six years while she has been wandering from place to place. Her son is in the same fix." (those smart trustees trying to lay the blame on my children.) "But,' says the Journal, "allowing all that her son and daughter say, by the laws of this State they are responsible for her support, and the Hospital was not made for an asylum for harmless monomaniacs, even though they be an expense and annovance to their children. If the State of Maine has got to support Mrs. Pennell it will be cheaper by all means to let her wander than to keep her shut up in the hospital. Her mission is a very harmless one, and if our laws permit such a person as Mrs. Pennell to be placed and keft in an insane asylum we do not know who will be safe. The Mayor of Portland is a spiritualist; perhaps some one will clap him into a hospital and call him insane. They once said we were insane because we built a house on a hill instead of in a hollow. The insane hospital was not intended for such people as Mrs. Pennell.-Not much!" Later the Journal says :- "The Hallowell Register says, Mrs. L. C. Pennell the lady consigned to the asylum. and since released, proposes to bring her case before the Governor and Council. We can hardly see that the lady is likely to obtain any redress that will reflect upon the managers of the Insane Asylum good as her case may be;" To which the Kennebec Journal responds, - "In our opinion Mrs. Pennell is an unmitigated nuisance. However, her incarceration in the asylum gave Hi. Morrell and a lot of other fellows a chance to abuse the State Government, and the officers of the Insane Asylum, and we suppose they might as well expend their philanthropy in that way as any. Such talk is harmless and does not cost a cent." Says Morrell,-"If being an 'unmitigated nuisance' was an argument for consigning one to the Insane Hospital, the writer of the above should take Mrs. Pennell's place. We have re-read every word that we have ever published in regard to Mrs. Pennell, and we have never in the remotest manner 'abused' or even alluded to the State Government. The other fellows' whom the K. J. classes in the same category with Hi. Morrell are the Portland Transcript, Lewiston Journal, Waterville Mail, Hallowell Register and other equally rcspectable papers. Is it too much to expect that the Kennebec Journal will retract or apologize for this insulting lie of its local editor?"

It would be too much, for of all the thanks I owe to the editors whose good words stood between me and the fate Dr. Harlow did not dare consign me to while these came so thick and fast, my most devout thanks are due to "the little insane organ," for its fling about my boring' people. But for that the next day after I was committed, my friends might have believed that I was not the same as they had seen me, that I actually had gone mad. The reader of the Memorial I actually had gone might be reader of the Memorial Scrap Book will learn how to estimate what the trustees said about my children.

Of my eight months of prison life but little will be told in these pages. It can be seen in the extracts from newspapers which seemed an appropriate introduction to this vindication that my case was not regarded a disease. It was well known to Dr. Harlow, the Trustees and the Governor and Council, that I was wrongly committed. In the Memorial Scrap Book will be given letters in proof of this. The testimony of Dr. Harlow that I "did not improve, remained the same, and made them all so uncomfortable." with the finding of the jury in the Supreme Court that no insanity was indicated in my appearance or in the testimony against me is suggestive.

The letters on the cover of these pages were written by men with whom I had conversed and been treated in the most courteous manner. I had never met the M. D.'s who certified but once, months before, and they were not pleased with my proposed work in sanitary interests. Dr. Small said, "It will be very humiliating to the medical profession if you get legislation in health reform." Dr. Cummings swore in court that he bought my essay, "Sickness vs. Smells," to get rid of me. Could not tell how much he paid, but he thought all the money he had: Read it and based on that his medical opinion. It will be found in the MEMORIAL SCRAP BOOK.

The trustees of the Hospital tried to make it appear that my children had me placed there, and such lies were told as the public will be astonished to hear. Dr. Harlow said "your children did not place you here, but they can take you away any time." How I was held there and told, "If you will promise to go to Massachusetts and never come back to Maire, we think the overseers of the poor of Portland will let you go; write to Mr. Baker." and the rich letter from that worthy in which he says, "in your present disordered mental condition." &c, will be a treat for the readers of the MEMORIAL SCRAP BOOK.

The scandalous bargain that I should be returned to the hospital or to him in Portland if I did not remain in the family of A. H. Gee, I did not know of for several days. Mrs. Quinby told Mr. Gee in Brunswick that I was to be sent to the poor house. Baker was on hand to take me there by the night train. And he is still anxious to lock me up as ever: his "convictions as to my present disordered mental cond tion remain unchanged." The conceptions of Dickens were tame compared with my actual experience in the six months I was out trying to be self-supporting, and escape the conspirators who openly declared I should be recommitted. I have chapters written which have long been ready for publication.

Look for the M. S. B.

### MEMORIAL SCRAP BOOK

To explain why Mrs. L. C. Pennell was placed in the Insane Asylum.

In Advent Season, 1871, N. W. T. Root, rector of St. Paul's Church, Portland, called on Mrs. Pennell, and talked and behaved shamefully; told how vile his habits were and always had been, as was the rule with clergymen and sisters; "Was not afraid the Bishop would throw stones at him—they knew cash other too well. Bishop Nealy had young girls for his own use, worse than his own practice."

Root told who were some of the Bishop's darlings.
"One had escaped being sent to England into a nunery,
as, finding there was no need of it, she didn't wan't to be a
nun." Another "the Bishop picked up in the Provinces,
the daughter of a poor clergyman, and Mrs. Nealy was so
fond of her she would not allow her out of her sight." She
was a luscious-looking damsel. Oh, ye shades of St. Catherine and the gilded errss fall lightly on young girls!

So much is left out, it seems very little is told. This interview was described first to Mrs. Moody, wife of the senior warden, who said, "You need not feel so bad. We have long known his habits, and have tried to get rid of him, now we shall. I am glad it has happened, so that a distinct charge is brought by a respectable communicant." (More of the conversation there recorded, and read by those who remember, will appear in the Memorial Scran Book.) After the wardens were informed their wives eame to say that "the Bishop must be told." I advised them not to lay the ease before the Bishop at ail, but to send Root away. They said he would not go. I told the Bishop; he was disgusted with the telling, but said, "Don't you think he was drnnk? I have not been satisfied with him for more than a year; for six months have been intending to have a talk with him about his drinking habits. This must be investigated." He said I "had done right to tell." A few weeks later the wardens called at my house, and said. "The ease eannot be investigated and not break up the Diocese. You must take back what you said." I was not that kind of a woman then, any more than now. They threatened infamy and ruin to myself and children. I said, "there is not one thing in the world which can be said against me or my children that is true, so you can't hurt us." They said, "We will make charges which will hurt you as much as if they were true, and they will save the Bishop." What was said and done after dinner the same day by Root and wife and Moody and wife at my house will be recorded in tull in the Memorial Scrap Book.

After Easter my son had a letter from Strout & Gage to come at once to their office on important business. He had not been told, neither had my daughter, as I had hoped that the promise made that their church relations should not be disturbed would be respected. Walter went; they gave him a paper which he was to make me sign, or he should be ruined forever financially and socially, and they asked him if I was not delirious sometimes. He told them never. Copy of the paper they wanted signed, not signed:

"Portland, April 3d, 1872. I hereby certify that I know nothing against the private or moral character of Rev. N. W. T. Root, and have no reason to believe him other than a good man and a worthy minister."

I wrote to them that I should not sign that paper, and if they knew what I had totd the Bishop, and what he said, they would not ask it. Then they came and demanded the paper back. But I said, "No, gentlemen, I will keep it." They expostulated a long time, with threats. They wanted to write. I did not begin the writing. After various productions, which I would not sign, I did sign this for them, holding a duplicate:

"Portland, March 10. I hereby pledge myself never hereafter to say anything to the disparagement of the moral character of Rev. N. W. T. Root, he agreeing in consideration of the performance of this pledge by me, not to institute any proceedings for slander against me.

Signed. L. C. Pennell.

Witnessed: S. C. Strout, H. W. Gage."

"Now," I said, "I need not speak a word, but to those who want to know why I do not go to church, I will show this paper, and refer them to Root or the Bishop, and let them explain my 'ballucination.'" Then they were worse off than before; I had two papers instead of one. I went to their office and made them change the date to April, as they had made a mistake. Two years later I found by letter from Canon Hayes that we all were then "turned out of the church," our names removed at that Easter meeting. Of course after my children heard this Root affair they could not go again to church."

Some weeks later I was advised to withdraw the paper I had signed, as it had not been acted on in court. The let-

ters I sent to the Bishop and Root, with the Bishop's answer, will be given in the Memorial Scrap Book. Not long after Root had a paper retracting all I had said, and signed with my name. This he showed to his friends, and to Rev. Asa Dalton, who told him "Mrs. Pennell nev r signed that." He said, "The Bishop made this paper; I am all right." Then I proclaimed the Bishop a Forger, Liar and Poltroon. He knew that Root said he wrote it. How we were hurt, assaulted, shadowed and pursued, only was wittlessed by God and the angels. I will pass on to a letter from my counsel. of which he gave me a copy:

"Portland, Sept. 10, 1873. REV. BISHOP NEELY, Dear Sir: Mrs. Pennell, whose relations to the church organization over which you preside is represented to me as having been for thirty years unexceptionable, has charged me with business of seeking redress for her against a letter written to her by you, dated Jan. 3d, 1872, is and highly derogatory to her character, and agravated by your alleged arbitrary expulsion of her from the privileges of the Church without relation upon which she has had an opportunity of being heard, or from which to vindicate herself. If her representations be true, neither her poverty, nor the rightful power of any church embodiment should deprive her of justice. If there be no established Church discipline to seenre to her a proper opportunity of vindication, then legal proceedings must be invoked for that purpose, which I should regret extremely, and am most desirous to avert. But your attention to this matter is respectfully requested, and for that purpose I will meet you at such convenient time and place in the city, or at my house in Deering as you may designate. Most Respectfully, your obedient servant. F. O. J. SMITH."

On receipt of this letter "Bishop Neely blubbered for arbitration." Letters on this from his counsel and my counsel will be found in the Memorial Scran Book.

After I had lived sometime in Springfield under fire, it was denied that the Bishop had even had connsel. Much else was denied also. Judge Morris, of Springfield, wrote to a lawyer in Portland to see who complained to the Marshal and wanted me put in the insane hospital. He gave me the letter he got in return, that he had seen the Marshal, who was willing to send a deposition. Here is the testimony he is ready now to give oath to:

"I hereby certify that in January, 1874, Judge Howard of this eity came to me and requested that I would arrest Mrs. L. C. Pennell, an insane woman, dangerous, at large, and especially so to Bishop Neelly. He wished me to call at the store of Chas. E. Jose, and tell her son, a clerk there, to take her to my office. The young man said his mother was all right, and not in the city. After then I had a letter from her giving some history of her case which satisfied me that it was not in my jurisdiction. Until then I had not heard of either son or mother. Afterwards Judge Howard censured me verbally and by letters for letting her escape from the State, and from his representations I supposed her to be a raving maniae. I knew nothing different nutil in the summer of 1875 she called on me, and from that time I have known more or less of her, and the persecutions she has endured, supposed to be in the interest of Bishop Nealy. I have had some experience professionally with insane people, and have never yet discovered in Mrs. Pennell one indication of an unsound mind. On the contrary I think she has shown such proof of sanity, as few people ever could do. GEO. W. PARKER.

Sheriff's Office, Portland, May, 1882."

Shortly after this attempt to have me arrested and put in the insane hospital, Rev. Alex. Burgess wrote to Bishop Necly from Springfield; "Mrs. Pennell has come here to reside, and I shall receive her to the communion unless you object, which I recognize your right to do, in which case I shall institute an inquiry to know why you object," Bishop Neely answered, "I shall not object." How from time to time this case has been laid before the Triennial Conventions of Bishops, who had in their lower house the very men who could tell them better than to take the word of Bishop Neely and his adherants: "Oh, she's only a crazy woman: what she says is of no account," will be found in the pages of the Memorial Scrap Book. And how, after all her suffering and imprisonment, the climax was crowned by the rector Upiohn, of St. Mark's Church, Augusta, on Holy Thursday, 1883. With the devout throng I knelt at the altar rail and held my open hand to be filled with the "Bread of Life." Other hands were served, and when the celebrant came to me he said, "What is your name, madam?" I replied, "Mrs. Pennell, sir." "I cannot receive you," said he, and passed on. I retired to the pew in good order and waited until the end of the service. Went again on Good Friday, then sent a polite note to him, penned by one whose judgment no one questions, requesting that before Easter the purpose of the publicity of an insult so outrageous should be explained.

He does not choose to answer, and the spectacle of himself and Bishop Neely on the witness stand in court, explaining the method of ascertaining at the "Lord's Table," without knowing one's name, whether they are worthy partakers, and just what amount of virtue a sister much have beneath her mantle so as to not excite their suspicions, will be duly shown in the Memorial Scrap Book. A chapter of first experience in regard to the commitment and restraint of the Insane Hospital will be given as it was prepared last year, and the M. D.'s may look for heroic treatment in the Scrap Book, which will have the decision of the law court, if it matures in Time; if not, another volume will follow in the Hereafter.

Let no one fail to remember that abuses exist in the Insane Hospital in Augusta, such as Massachusetts does not yet dream of; and Dr. Sanborn is powerless to make reform there under Dr. Harlow, and these trustees who are bound to keep him. It has cost piles of money to make Boss Harlow Governor, and now we'll see what will come of it. Be sure and look for results in the Memorial Scrup Book,

A space is left here for a P. S. from Bishop Neely,



After histing my case, as  $(-1)^{-1}$  (-

Green London

Where  $t^{(0)}$  ,  $A_{ij}^{(0)}$  is  $i \in [1, \infty)$  . We denote the property of the second constant  $i \in [1, \infty)$  in  $i \in [1, \infty)$  . The second constant  $i \in [1, \infty)$  is  $i \in [1, \infty)$ . If  $i \in [1, \infty)$  is  $i \in [1, \infty)$  in  $i \in [1,$